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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BULGARIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 16 March 1994 from the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Zheliu Zhelev, to the Secretary-General.

I would kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council in connection with the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 900 (1994).

I would also be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Slavi PASHOVSKI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 16 March 1994 from the President of Bulgaria to the Secretary-General

I would first of all like to reiterate my excellent impressions of the meetings and talks I have had with you, especially our latest ones during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in New York last year. The post of Secretary-General is unique in terms of its place and responsibilities and I would like to assure you of the support which Bulgaria will continue to render to you in the discharge of your mission. Today its importance is more apparent than ever.

As a State Member of the United Nations, Bulgaria is contributing to enhancing the efficiency of international efforts aimed at peace and security, stability and economic development.

A telling example of the new foreign policy of democratic Bulgaria is its attitude towards the crisis brought about by the disintegration of the former Yugoslav federation. From the very beginning, Bulgaria declared that it would not take advantage of the resulting situation. On the contrary, we consider the speedy localization and solution of the conflicts to be in the best interests of our country. Bulgaria stated its decision not to participate in any military way in the events in the former Yugoslavia and appealed to the other Balkan and neighbouring States to adopt the same approach of restraint. Along with this, Bulgaria consistently and energetically supports the peaceful initiatives of the United Nations, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which can lead to a lasting and equitable solution of the dangerous crisis, whose dimensions are not only regional.

Our desire to see the categorical and well-founded position of the United Nations applied in practice without any military involvement on the part of Bulgaria or other Balkan and neighbouring States is not motivated by any clandestine schemes or unwillingness to bear responsibility. We support the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. We have proved this with the participation of Bulgaria in the United Nations operation in Cambodia, with the loss of 10 human lives and the expenses incurred by sending Bulgarian "blue helmets" to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Here is another argument: Bulgaria strictly observes the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. It is cooperating with the observer missions of the United Nations, the European Union, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Western European Union in accordance with its legal obligations. I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you that Bulgaria will continue to pursue this policy irrespective of the great losses and difficulties in terms of economic reform and Bulgarian exports caused by the implementation of sanctions.

Bulgaria's abstention from participation in military operations in the former Yugoslavia under the auspices of the United Nations is not equivalent to indifference or lack of concern. This position is motivated by the historical

heritage, a recurrence of which would prove fatal for the Balkans. At the beginning of this century a shot fired in Sarajevo resulted in the death of more than 4 million people in the First World War. The Balkan wars in this century alone were four, each one of them more tragic and regrettable than the last. The Balkan States bear the burden of the past and, however noble their motives, any part they take in the military operations in the former Yugoslavia, even in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), may rouse old suspicions and feuds.

I am well aware of the growing need for a quantitative increase in UNPROFOR, without which the negotiated political compromises and obligations will be endangered. But the risk will be even greater should troops from any one of the Balkan States be included in UNPROFOR. I am confident that you are also aware of this danger and will continue your efforts on behalf of the United Nations to find an adequate solution.

Zheliu ZHELEV
President of the Republic of Bulgaria